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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/501,988	07/21/2004	Maurizio Lualdi	2004_1151A	3370
513	7590	12/02/2005	EXAMINER	
WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P.			BARKER, MATTHEW M	
2033 K STREET N. W.			ART UNIT	
SUITE 800			PAPER NUMBER	
WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021			3662	

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/501,988	Applicant(s) LUALDI, MAURIZIO	
	Examiner Matthew M. Barker	Art Unit 3662	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13 and 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 7/21/2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 13-14 are objected to because of the following informalities: the language "belong to a layer of corrugated cardboard" does not make sense grammatically. For the purposes of examination, it is understood that the guides are composed of cardboard. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-11 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Burkhardt et al. ('378).

Regarding claim 1, in Figure 1 Burkhardt shows a position system for data acquisition comprising at least one antenna (66) passed over a surface to be surveyed comprising a plurality of guides (22, 24) side by side; a structure having at least one guide (60) that engages with the plurality of guides.

Regarding claim 2, Burkhardt shows that the plurality of guides (22, 24) are linear.

Regarding claims 3 and 5, Burkhardt discloses that the plurality of guides are positioned on a supporting layer of flexible material with a lower abrasive surface ("vacuum cups", see column 3, lines 10-11) so that it does not move once it is positioned.

Regarding claim 4, Burkhardt discloses that the structure can advance (Abstract, lines 1-4).

Regarding claim 6, Burkhardt shows the guides positioned at preset distances (figure 1).

Regarding claim 7, Burkhardt discloses that a measuring system (66) having a preset working wavelength is placed above the structure (60)(see figure 1) and the plurality of guides (22,24) are positioned at a preset distance proportional to the wavelength.

Regarding claim 8, Burkhardt shows a motor portion (80) on one of the plurality of guides. The motor on guide (22) is an identification element to identify the guides.

Regarding claim 9, Burkhardt discloses that the positioning system permits 3-D Georadar acquisitions (column 1, lines 50-60).

Regarding claim 10, Burkhardt shows a stopping device (42) at at least one extremity of the plurality of guides.

Regarding claim 11, virtually any material will flex, and therefore the plurality of guides (22,24) of Burkhardt are considered flexible.

Regarding claim 15, Burkhardt discloses that the data acquisition system comprises a transmitter and receiver (column 3, line 66).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 9 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burkhardt.

Regarding claim 9, Burkhardt does not explicitly disclose that the positioning system permits 3 dimension Georadar acquisitions. However, Burkhardt does suggest that any suitable scanner may be used (column 1, lines 50-51). In light of this teaching, it would have been obvious to use a scanner with the invention of Burkhardt to provide imaging of underground objects.

Regarding claim 12, Burkhardt does not disclose the use of glue in the invention. However, the use of glue would be obvious to apply the plurality of guides to a surface in the invention of Burkhardt, as glue is a well-known means of attaching objects.

Regarding claims 13-14, Burkhardt does not disclose the use of corrugated cardboard in the invention. However, the use of corrugated cardboard would be obvious as a construction material in the invention of Burkhardt, as it is well known that cardboard provides both strength and flexibility at a low cost.

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Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Lloyd, Kaufman, Natori, Satzler, Guo, Batten, and Hansen relate to scanning devices.


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew M. Barker whose telephone number is (571)272-3103. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Tarcza can be reached on (571)272-6979. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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